

# NCAA Eligibility Center 101



Eligibility Center

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# NCAA Eligibility Center 101

- Overview of the NCAA
- What is the Eligibility Center?
- NCAA Initial Eligibility
- High School Review
- Relevant NCAA Legislation
- Questions

# Overview of the NCAA

- Voluntary organization that governs intercollegiate athletics
  - Division I
    - 335 member schools
    - Typically larger schools
    - Athletic grants-in-aid available
  - Division II
    - 288 member schools
    - Typically small to medium sized
    - Athletic grants-in-aid available
  - Division III
    - 447 member schools
    - Typically smaller schools
    - Grants-in-aid cannot be athletically based

# What Does the Eligibility Center Do?

- Certifies initial eligibility for incoming prospective student-athletes in Division I and Division II
  - Domestic and international academic certification
  - Domestic and international amateurism certification
- Departments
  - Academic certification
  - Amateurism
  - Customer service
  - High school review
  - National Letter of Intent

# Did You Know?

- Approximately [500,000](#) pieces of mail throughout the year
- Approximately [200,000](#) annual registrants
  - Approximately [90,000](#) final certifications
- Approximately [600](#) Division I and II institutions
- Approximately [30,000](#) high schools
  - Over [100,000](#) core course submissions per year
  - Roughly [400-500](#) core courses per day
  - Over [500](#) nontraditional schools/programs reviewed

# What is NCAA Initial Eligibility?

- Academic requirements that a prospective student-athlete (PSA) must meet to:
  - Practice
  - Compete
  - Receive athletics aid (scholarship)
- First year at a Division I or Division II college/university
- Subsequent years governed by progress-toward-degree academic requirements
  - An enrolled student-athlete may gain/lose eligibility in each term

# Evolution of Initial Eligibility

- 1973: 2.000 minimum GPA
- 1986: 700 SAT or 15 ACT, 11 core courses with core GPA of 2.000
- 1995: 700 SAT or 17 ACT, 13 core courses, sliding scale of GPA and test score (DI)
- 1996: SAT re-centered, 820 minimum DI and DII, with 68 sum ACT
- 2003: 14 core courses, amended sliding scale, elimination of partial qualifiers (DI); 2005 14 core for DII
- 2008: 16 core courses (DI)
- 2013: 16 core courses (DII)

# Who Makes the Rules?

- Division I and Division II member colleges/universities
  - Representative structure in Division I
  - Convention voting in Division II
  - Academic rules generally vetted through academic committees
    - Input from iNACOL community
- NCAA Eligibility Center and national office staff use rules to guide their work



# Commonly Used Terms

- Prospective Student-Athlete (PSA): a student who wishes to participate in intercollegiate athletics
- Qualifier: PSA who meets all initial-eligibility rules. May practice, compete and receive athletics aid
- Partial Qualifier: Division II only; a PSA who meets some but not all initial-eligibility rules. May practice and receive athletics aid but cannot compete during the first year
- Nonqualifier: PSA who does not meet the initial-eligibility rules. No practice, no competition and no athletics aid during the first year

# Four Elements of Initial Eligibility

- Graduation from high school
- Minimum number of core courses
- Minimum grade-point average in those core courses
- Minimum SAT or ACT test score

# NCAA Initial-Eligibility Requirements

Courses	Division I	Division II	Division II (2013 and after)
English	4	3	3
Math	3	2	2
Science	2	2	2
Social Science	2	2	2
English, Math or Science	1	2	3
Additional Core Courses	4	3	4

# NCAA Division I Sliding Scale

NCAA DIVISION I SLIDING SCALE CORE GRADE-POINT AVERAGE/ TEST-SCORE New Core GPA / Test Score Index		
Core GPA	SAT Verbal and Math ONLY	ACT
3.550 & above	400	37
3.525	410	38
3.500	420	39
3.475	430	40
3.450	440	41
3.425	450	41
3.400	460	42
3.375	470	42
3.350	480	43
3.325	490	44
3.300	500	44
3.275	510	45
3.250	520	46
3.225	530	46
3.200	540	47
3.175	550	47
3.150	560	48
3.125	570	49
3.100	580	49
3.075	590	50
3.050	600	50
3.025	610	51
3.000	620	52
2.975	630	52
2.950	640	53
2.925	650	53
2.900	660	54
2.875	670	55
2.850	680	56
2.825	690	56
2.800	700	57

2.775	710	58
2.750	720	59
2.725	730	59
2.700	730	60
2.675	740-750	61
2.650	760	62
2.625	770	63
2.600	780	64
2.575	790	65
2.550	800	66
2.525	810	67
2.500	820	68
2.475	830	69
2.450	840-850	70
2.425	860	70
2.400	860	71
2.375	870	72
2.350	880	73
2.325	890	74
2.300	900	75
2.275	910	76
2.250	920	77
2.225	930	78
2.200	940	79
2.175	950	80
2.150	960	80
2.125	960	81
2.100	970	82
2.075	980	83
2.050	990	84
2.025	1000	85
2.000	1010	86

# NCAA Divisions II and III

- Division II
  - Minimum 2.000 core-course GPA
  - Minimum 820 SAT (critical reading/math only)  
or minimum 68 sum ACT
- Division III
  - Based on admission standards
  - No specific NCAA requirements

# Roles of Students/Schools

- Role of the student
  - Academic preparation
  - Registration
- Role of the recruiting college/university
  - Monitoring student progress
  - Identifying potential issues
- Role of the high school/program
  - List of NCAA courses
  - Transcripts

# Reviewing High Schools

- History
- Types of schools
  - Schools new to the NCAA
  - Established schools
- Two-part review of schools new to the NCAA
  - Review of school/program
  - Review of individual courses
- What does a list mean? What doesn't it mean?

# Review of School/Program

- Academic Review Questionnaire (ARQ)
- Nontraditional Academic Review Questionnaire (NARQ)
  - Curriculum delivery
  - Quality control
  - Issuance of transcripts or grade reports
- Nontraditional Coursework Questionnaire (NCQ)



# NCAA Definition of a Core Course

- English, mathematics, natural/physical science, social science, foreign language or comparative religion;
- Academic, four-year college preparatory;
- Algebra I or higher;
- Taught by a qualified instructor; and
- At or above the high school's regular academic level

# NCAA Definition of a Core Course

- “Typical” core courses:
  - AP Calculus BC, Biology, Advanced Composition, French V
- “Typical” non core:
  - Consumer Math, Personal Finance, Resume Writing, Fundamentals of Algebra
- Not so easy:
  - Film Literature, Transition to College Math, English 9 CP2, Conceptual Physics etc.

# NCAA Legislation for Nontraditional Courses

- Requires teacher/student access and interaction
  - Must be required
  - Must be for the duration of the course
  - Teaching, evaluating and providing feedback
- Defined time period for completion
  - Allows staff to compare/contrast with what was actually completed
- Student work must be made available
  - Suggests learning management system

# Effective Dates for Nontraditional Courses

- Division I
  - For those first enrolling full time at a DI school on or after 8-1-10
    - Based on course completion; courses completed prior to 8-1-10 may be reviewed on a case-by-case basis
    - Completed on/after 8-1-10 cannot be used if they do not meet nontraditional definition
- Division II
  - For those first enrolling full time at a DII school on or after 8-1-11
  - Course completion date not relevant; no “grandfathering”

# Trends Impacting Online Education

- Core-course time limitation
  - Students must complete required coursework in eight semesters
- NCAA Non-traditional coursework legislation
  - Student instructor interaction
  - Defined time period for completion
- Repeated coursework

# Trends Impacting Online Education

- Some athletes are short of qualifying and need quick fixes.
- Athletes may be enrolled in multiple courses from multiple providers simultaneously
- Athletes may overload courses in May/June, November/December or late July
- Non-scholastic athletic programs
  - Most fraud cases involve an adult behind the scene
  - Don't assume you are communicating with a parent or the student
  - Be aware and communicate

# Helpful Information

- 877/NCAA-EC1 (877/622-2321)
  - Phone line dedicated to the high school community
- [www.eligibilitycenter.org](http://www.eligibilitycenter.org)
  - 2009-10 Guide for the College-Bound Student-Athlete
  - High school portal
    - Resources page



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Thank You!